

From the Director of Victim Services



National Police Week occurs every May, and 2022 was observed from May 11–17. In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

They are victims who made the ultimate sacrifice, losing their lives while serving and protecting our communities. The men and women who have gone before us served with honor, and in doing so, honored

their departments, their colleagues, and families who still hold them dear.

The Memorial Service began in 1982 as a gathering in Senate Park of approximately 120 survivors and supporters of law enforcement. Decades later, the event, more commonly known as National Police Week, has grown to a series of events which attracts thousands of survivors and law enforcement officers to our Nation's Capital each year.

National Police Week is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community. The principal organizers of National Police Week include: National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF), which sponsors the annual Candlelight Vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, Fraternal Order of Police/Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary (FOP/FOPA), responsible for organizing the Peace Officers Memorial Day Service at the U.S. Capitol, and Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), which holds the National Police Survivors' Conference.

Stay Safe!

Tamika Dobbins



May 2022

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Victim Services Mission

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

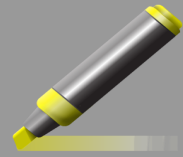
Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

Victim Services Activities:

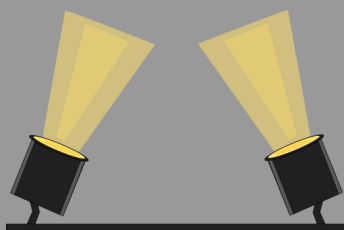
- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

Victim Services Highlights....Let's get to know



Valerie Craig is the Co-founder of Tennessee Voices for Victims. She has worked in the victim advocacy field since 1999 when she became the director of a program that provided case management services to elder crime victims. Since then, her work has focused on empowering survivors and helping to address the impact of victimization by

responding directly to victims' needs as they work through the aftermath of their victimization, educating the community, assisting the faith community on responding to threats in their congregation, collaborating with the Juvenile Restorative Justice program in Nashville, and teaching numerous classes each year on a variety of crime and justice topics including weekly Victim Impact classes with those who are incarcerated. Valerie is also an active participant in planning both local and state Season to Remember events, chairs Davidson County's Annual Crime Victims' Rights Week event, and co-chairs the Nashville Christmas Day Bombing Long Term Recovery Group.





Victim Impact Video Statements

The Board of Parole has created a new process to submit victim impact video statements, allowing victims and interested parties to have their voices heard at parole hearings without having to be physically present. Beginning in 2022, victim impact video statements are now allowed to be submitted into the Board. Previously, only written statements or those attending in person were allowed.

What is a victim impact statement?

Victim impact statements, whether they are submitted in writing or via video, provide the opportunity for victims to describe to the parole board the impact the crime has had on their life – financially, physically, and emotionally.

Victim impact statements give Board members insight into the continuing impact of the crime. Victims can also inform the board about any concerns they have for their safety or the safety of the community.

Why are victim impact video statements available?

Victims and interested parties who may be unable to attend the hearing, or for whatever reason choose not to attend, have this option available to them. It is also available to victims and interested parties who are attending the hearing but may not be comfortable reading their statement.

How do you submit a victim impact video statement?

All victim impact video statements must be scheduled through the Board of Parole's Victim Services Division at either BDVictim.Impact@tn.gov, 615.532.8112 or toll free at 866.795.7467.

Are victim impact statements considered confidential?

Victim impact video statements are confidential property of the Board of Parole. The recordings will not be played during the hearings, nor will the content be discussed during the hearings. The recordings will be viewed by the hearings officer and/or Board members who are voting on a parole case.

How long should my video statement be?

Video Impact Statements can be up to five minutes long.

Do videos have to be submitted for each parole hearing?

Once a victim impact statement is submitted, it will be considered at each subsequent hearing the offender has until the BOP is notified by the victim or person in opposition of their desire to no longer have the video considered.

Who can view my video impact statements?

Victim Impact Statements are viewable to only Victim Services staff, hearings officers and Board members. They become a permanent and confidential part of the offender's file unless a victim or interested party submits a [Victim Impact Video Statement Discontinuation Form](#).

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Each May we raise awareness about the importance of mental health and its impact on the well-being of all Americans, including children, adults, families, and communities across our Nation. We also give thanks to the dedicated mental health providers whose service and support improve the lives of so many Americans. Even before the pandemic, millions of Americans were experiencing stress, trauma, anxiety, and heightened levels of depression. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated those conditions, creating an unprecedented mental health crisis across our country. Communities of color, frontline workers, health care workers, and individuals with eating disorders have been disproportionately impacted, and the rate of depression across the country has more than tripled compared to rates in 2019.

Mental health challenges among our youth have also been particularly acute due to disruptions in routines, increased social isolation, and learning loss. Research has shown that social media plays a central role in increasing mental health challenges among young people—especially young women. Emergency department visits for attempted suicide among girls in 2021 increased by more than 50 percent compared to 2020. American Indians, Alaska Natives, Black youth, and LGBTQI+ youth also face a disproportionate risk of suicide.

Despite these disturbing trends, less than half of Americans struggling with mental illness receive the treatment they need—even fewer within Black and Brown communities. A variety of factors contribute to this problem. For example, too many communities lack sufficient numbers of mental health providers. Even where there are enough mental health providers, our fragmented system makes it difficult for people to access them. Tragically, too, many Americans feel ashamed to reach out for help, or are stigmatized for seeking care.

Crimes can have a devastating effect on victims and their families, and they may need help coping with the impact of victimization. Emotional and behavioral reactions to crime victimization are normal and to be expected. For most, stabilization will occur within 90 days of the victimization. However, some individuals may lack the coping skills and post-trauma resilience for an unassisted return to pre-trauma functioning. These individuals may be at risk for developing mental health disorders; therefore, a comprehensive evaluation by a qualified mental health professional may be warranted.

If you are in CRISIS: Text “MHA” to 741741 or call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to reach a trained crisis counselor 24/7, 365 days a year.



VOICE (Victim Offender Information Caller Emissary) to be Decommissioned

The Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) currently provides a toll-free hotline service for victims/victim family members to receive offender information. This service is provided through a system known as VOICE (Victim Offender Information Caller Emissary) which retrieves offender data details (current location, sentence expiration date, sentence effective date, parole hearing information, etc.).

To access the offender information, an individual registers for the service by submitting a request form to Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC). Once approved, the TDOC Victim Services division issues the individual Victim Personal Identification Number (VPIN) that registers the individual to access information about the associated offender. The registrant will enter the VPIN when they call the VOICE hotline to receive the offender details.

The same data available through VOICE is now also available through VINE and we highly encourage all current users of VOICE to utilize VINE at vinelink.com or by phone at 888-868-4631 as we are currently working towards the decommission of VOICE and anticipate that this will take place this summer.

Offender information may also be found on our website at www.tn.gov/correction by clicking on FOIL – Offender Search.

Victim Services Monthly Statistics

Central Office Phone Calls

| Telephone Calls | April |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Phone calls Received/Returned | 221 |
| Parties Registered for Notifications (phone/mail/fax/email) | 120 |
| Harassment/Threats/No Contact | 4 |
| Referrals | 56 |
| Release/Parole Inquiry | 57 |
| Other | 104 |

Central Office Mailed Notifications

| Notifications Mailed | April |
|----------------------|-------|
| Registrations/Voice | 80 |
| Movement | 82 |
| Advance Release | 343 |
| Final Release * | 63 |
| Death | 16 |
| Other | 3 |



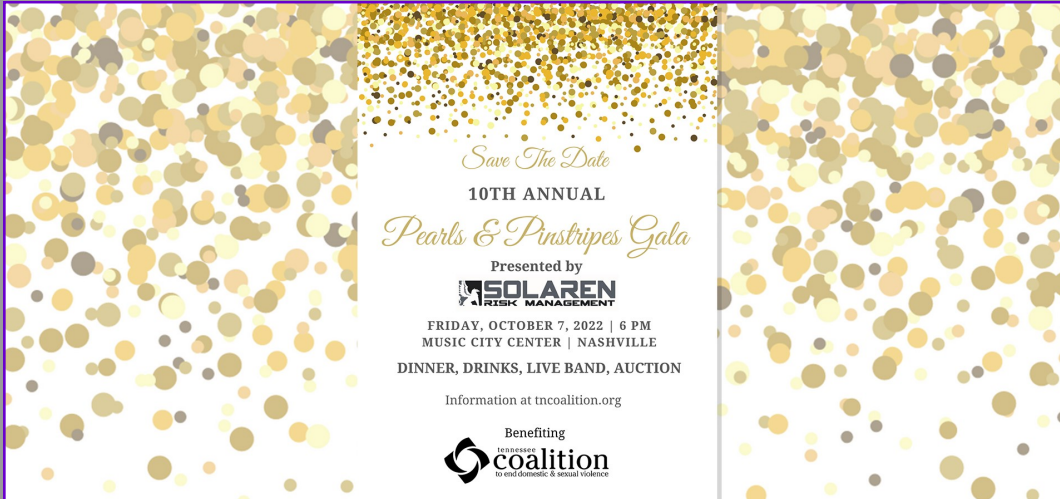
Notification Statistics By Delivery Method Report 4-01-2022 to 4-30-2022

| Agency | Month | Email | TTY | SMS | Phone | InApp | Letter | Total |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-----|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| TN Department of Correction | April 2022 | 8,407 | 1 | 19,080 | 3,793 | 453 | n/a | 31,734 |
| | AGENCY TOTALS | 8,407 | 1 | 19,080 | 3,793 | 453 | n/a | 31,734 |
| | OVERALL TOTALS | 8,407 | 1 | 19,080 | 3,793 | 453 | n/a | 31,734 |

New Registration Statistics By Registrant Classification 4-01-2022 to 4-30-2022

| | | Anonymous | Concerned citizen | Family member of offender | Family member of victim | Law enforcement | Not Reported | Other | Victim | Victim coordinator/advocate | Total |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------|--------|-----------------------------|-------|
| TN Department of Correction | April 2022 | 91 | 114 | 411 | 143 | 510 | 5,126 | 261 | 56 | 3 | 6,715 |
| | AGENCY TOTALS | 91 | 114 | 411 | 143 | 510 | 5,126 | 261 | 56 | 3 | 6,715 |
| | OVERALL TOTALS | 91 | 114 | 411 | 143 | 510 | 5,126 | 261 | 56 | 3 | 6,715 |

Announcements



Hope & Healing Wellness Seminars:

Knowledge is power and empowering. The Crime Victims & Rape Crisis Center (CVRCC) is offering a series of seminars designed to promote the emotional healing and wellness of adult female survivors of sexual abuse age 18 & up. These seminars are designed to educate, equip and support participants in reclaiming their sense of self and well-being.

Meeting Dates & Time:

When: June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Where: CVRCC - 1060 Madison Avenue Memphis, TN 38104

All seminars are free of charge and facilitated by a licensed mental health counselor. You may register for any or all of the seminars. Please call 901-222-4350 for more information regarding registration.

Hope & Healing Seminars:

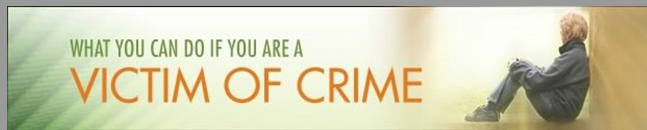
June 1st: Are you Ready for a Change? Come learn about the 5 stages of change. We all struggle to make major changes in our lives. Identify where you are in the change process and recognize the barriers to moving forward in your healing process.

June 8th: 105 Managing Stressful Emotions: Recovering from abuse can produce intense emotional feelings and reactions. Identify effective and positive coping strategies to manage these emotions toward reducing stress and increasing inner peace.

June 15th: Building & Maintaining Self-Esteem: Explore ten ways to enhance your self-esteem. Quiet those self-doubting thoughts. Learn how to foster self-acceptance and compassion toward yourself and others.

June 22nd: Understanding & Managing Anxiety: Learn the facts and myths around anxiety. Explore ways to identify and manage your anxious thoughts towards reducing worry and fear.

June 29th: The Essentials of Self-Care: A Holistic Self-Care Plan: The impact of trauma can leave us with little energy or desire to care for ourselves. Explore effective self-care strategies that reduce stress and revitalize the mind, body and spirit.



WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Sexual Assault Center 24 Hour Crisis & Support: 1-866-811-RISE (7473)

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Tennessee Department of Correction

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